

The way in which mundane and supramundane paths eliminate innate afflictions

As explained above, mundane uninterrupted paths (in the continua of both Buddhists and non-Buddhists) eliminate innate afflictions only *temporarily*, and of the two, mundane and supramundane innate afflictions, they are unable to temporarily eliminate *supramundane* ones. They can temporarily eliminate only *mundane* innate afflictions.

Furthermore, for instance, the different mundane uninterrupted paths of the preparatory stage of the First Concentration gradually and temporarily remove only the nine types of mundane innate afflictions that pertain to the *Desire Realm*; they are unable to temporarily remove the nine types of mundane innate afflictions that pertain to any higher level such as the First Concentration Level, the Second Concentration Level, etc.

Likewise, the mundane uninterrupted paths of the preparatory stage of the second concentration gradually and temporarily eliminate only the nine types of mundane innate afflictions that pertain to the *First Concentration Level*. They do not temporarily remove the nine types of mundane innate afflictions that pertain to the Desire Realm since they have already been temporarily removed by the preceding uninterrupted paths of the preparatory stage of the First Concentration. Also, they are unable to temporarily remove any mundane innate afflictions that pertain to the Third Concentration, Fourth Concentration, and so forth.

The same applies to the remaining concentrations and the four formless absorptions.

[See Charts 4 and 6]

Supramundane uninterrupted paths, on the other hand, are meditative equipoise paths that directly realize emptiness. Therefore, they are more potent than *mundane* uninterrupted paths. In general, there are two types of supramundane uninterrupted paths: (1) supramundane uninterrupted paths of the path of seeing and (2) supramundane uninterrupted paths of the path of meditation.

As explained earlier, supramundane uninterrupted paths of the path of seeing eliminate intellectually acquired afflictions, whereas supramundane uninterrupted paths of the path of meditation eliminate innate afflictions. Yet unlike mundane uninterrupted paths, they eliminate their respective afflictions *irrevocably*, for they remove them together with their seeds. Also, they irrevocably eliminate both mundane and supramundane afflictions.

Innate afflictions can be categorized into 81 different types. The 81 types constitute nine types of innate afflictions that pertain to each of the nine levels. Thus, there are nine types of innate afflictions that pertain to the Desire Realm (i.e. big-big, medium-big, medium-small, etc. innate afflictions of the Desire Realm), nine types of innate afflictions that pertain to the First Concentration Level (i.e. big-big, medium-big, medium-small, etc. innate afflictions of the First Concentration Level), nine types of innate afflictions that pertain to the Second Concentration (i.e. big-big, medium-big, medium-small, etc. innate afflictions of the Second Concentration Level), and so forth. [See Chart 3]

These 81 types of innate afflictions can each be further subdivided into mundane and supramundane innate afflictions. This means that there are 81 types of supramundane innate afflictions and 72 types of mundane innate afflictions.

(Please note that there are only 72 types of mundane innate afflictions because, as mentioned before, there are no mundane innate afflictions that pertain to the Peak of Cyclic Existence Level.)

Regarding the 81 types of *supramundane* innate afflictions, the supramundane uninterrupted paths of the path of meditation eliminate these afflictions in a definite sequence. First the first type (big-big) of supramundane innate afflictions that pertain to each of the nine levels, i.e. the first type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, the First Concentration, the Second Concentration, etc. are eliminated simultaneously. Thereafter, the second type (medium-big) of supramundane innate afflictions of each of the nine levels are eliminated simultaneously, then the third type (small-big) of supramundane innate afflictions of each of the nine levels is eliminated simultaneously, and so forth. Therefore, as explained earlier (see Handout 24, page 1) supramundane uninterrupted paths of the path of meditation are nine-fold:

1. **Small-small** supramundane uninterrupted path of the path of meditation
2. **Medium-small** supramundane uninterrupted path of the path of meditation
3. **Big-small** " " " "
4. **Small-medium** " " " "

5. Medium-medium	"	"	"	"
6. Big-medium	"	"	"	"
7. Small-big	"	"	"	"
8. Medium-big	"	"	"	"
9. Big-big	"	"	"	"

1. The **small-small** (first) supramundane uninterrupted path eliminates **big-big** (the first type of) supramundane innate afflictions of each of the nine levels (i.e. big-big supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, big-big supramundane innate afflictions of the First Concentration Level, big-big supramundane innate afflictions of the Second Concentration Level, and so forth)
2. The **medium-small** (second) supramundane uninterrupted path eliminates **medium-big** (the second type of) supramundane innate afflictions of each of the nine levels (i.e. medium-big supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, medium-big supramundane innate afflictions of the First Concentration, medium-big supramundane innate afflictions of the Second Concentration, and so forth)
3. The **big-small** (third) supramundane uninterrupted path eliminates **small-big** (the third type of) supramundane innate afflictions of each of the nine levels (i.e. small-big supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, small-big supramundane innate afflictions of the First Concentration, small-big supramundane innate afflictions of the Second Concentration, and so forth)
4. The **small-medium** (fourth) supramundane uninterrupted path eliminates **big-medium** (the fourth type of) supramundane innate afflictions of each of the nine levels (i.e. big-medium supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, big-medium supramundane innate afflictions of the First Concentration, big-medium supramundane innate afflictions of the Second Concentration, and so forth)
5. The **medium-medium** (fifth) supramundane uninterrupted path eliminates **medium-medium** (the fifth type of) supramundane innate afflictions of each of the nine levels (i.e. medium-medium supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, medium-medium supramundane innate afflictions of the First Concentration, medium-medium supramundane innate afflictions of the Second Concentration, and so forth)
6. The **big-medium** (sixth) supramundane uninterrupted path eliminates **small-medium** (the sixth type of) supramundane innate afflictions of each of the nine levels (i.e. small-medium supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, small-medium supramundane innate afflictions of the First Concentration, small-medium supramundane innate afflictions of the Second Concentration, and so forth)
7. The **small-big** (seventh) supramundane uninterrupted path eliminates **big-small** (the seventh type of) supramundane innate afflictions of each of the nine levels (i.e. big-small supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, big-small supramundane innate afflictions of the First Concentration, big-small supramundane innate afflictions of the Second Concentration, and so forth)
8. The **medium-big** (eighth) supramundane uninterrupted path eliminates **medium-small** (the eighth type of) supramundane innate afflictions of each of the nine levels (i.e. medium-small supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, medium-small supramundane innate afflictions of the First Concentration, medium-small supramundane innate afflictions of the Second Concentration, and so forth)
9. The **big-big** (ninth) supramundane uninterrupted path eliminates **small-small** (the ninth type of) supramundane innate afflictions of each of the nine levels (i.e. small-small supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, small-small supramundane innate afflictions of the First Concentration, small-small supramundane innate afflictions of the Second Concentration, and so forth) [See Charts 5 and 7]

Regarding the 72 types of *mundane* innate afflictions, there is no definite sequence in which *supramundane* uninterrupted paths of the path of meditation eliminate these mundane afflictions. This means that even though mundane innate afflictions that pertain to any of the eight levels have to be irrevocably eliminated at the latest by the supramundane uninterrupted path of the path of meditation that irrevocably eliminates their supramundane counterparts, these mundane innate afflictions can also be irrevocably removed by any of the preceding supramundane uninterrupted paths of the path of

